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News Release

Cervical Cancer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHEROKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RAISES ITS VOICE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CERVICAL CANCER

Murphy, NC—January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, with the goal of educating and empowering women across America to visit their clinician for their Pap test. Vigilance on the part of women about early detection through cervical cancer screening is crucial because cervical cancer, caught early, is nearly 100 percent curable.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) reports that between 60 and 80 percent of American women with newly diagnosed invasive cervical cancer have not had a Pap smear in the past five years and may have never had one. The unscreened population groups include older women, and the uninsured, ethnic minorities (especially Latino women, African Americans and Asian Americans), and poor women, particularly those in rural areas.

Cervical cancer is one of the most common causes of cancer worldwide, and one of the most preventable and treatable. The American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that about 10,000 cases of invasive cervical cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2005 and more than 4,000 women will die from the disease.

Recent advances approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been developed to enhance the sensitivity of the Pap test, and many new guidelines have been developed about the frequency of cervical cancer screening. Be sure to consult your clinician about when you should have this all-important test.

For more information please contact the Cherokee County Health Department at 837-7486.